

**Analytical Study of Undergraduate (BLS)  
Department of Library Science, (University of Maiduguri, Nigeria between 2000 – 2006)**

By

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**Abstract**

Documentary source was used to provide analysis of the BLS projects submitted to Department of Library and Information Science, university of Maiduguri between 2000 and 2006. It was discovered that there was no single BLS project for the year 2001. A total of 355 BLS projects were submitted for the 6 years. In terms of study area 196 (55.21%) projects were on North Eastern Nigeria. It was discovered that case study covers 176 (49.88%) of the projects. The arrangement of the BLS projects by titles in ranked order showed that “problems, development and prospects in libraries” top the list with 46 (12.96%) scores. Low scores were recorded for projects on Current Awareness Services (CAS), Library cooperation, library standard etc with each having 1 (0.28%) project title.

**Department of Library Science University of Maiduguri**

Department of Library Science University of Maiduguri was founded in December 1977 under the leadership of Dr. C.C Aguolu who was the pioneer Head of Department. The department, the fourth in the country was fully established in 1978. It took off with 16 undergraduate students in 1978/79 session. The department introduced the Diploma in Library Science programme (DLS) was mounted and in 1982/83 academic session with 24 students. However the DLS programme is been phase out.

The library school presently runs the undergraduate programme and two postgraduate programmes (MLS and Ph.D). The Ph.D programme took off in 2006/2007 academic session. The department has 11 academic staff comprising of one professor, one reader, four senior lecturers; one lecturer I and two lecture II. The library school has departmental lecturer and a computer laboratory housed in the same building. (Bulletin: 2007)

**Review of Related Literature**

Goji (2007) compiled an annotated Bibliography of BLS projects submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science (University of Maiduguri) between 2000 and 2006. It contained 310 entries. However, it did not provide a statistical analysis of the research work compiled. The present study was aimed at providing the descriptive analysis of the BLS projects for the 6 years.

Ndor (2004) wrote on Database of African Theses and Dissertation (DATAD) using university of Jos as a case study, lamented that the Hardware for the project include 2 computer, 1 scanner, 1 printer, 2 UPS. The software include procite 5; References Web, poster, xitami HTTP server; Omni page Pro

II to handle scanning abstracts; Corel word perfect 8/MS word and latest version of anti-virus.

A sample of University of Jos theses and dissertation bibliographic entries entry include Author (full name and email) gender, title, degree, supervisor(s), town and country, university and department, year of submission, Acronym (UNIJOS); abstract in alternative language; physical description, language of the these, availability and address; copyright statement, abstract; call number and key words. So far, University of Jos has converted 1,500 theses and dissertation into electronic format while additional 300 records have been completed.

A documentary work on “index to and characteristics of Articles published in the journal of library focus 1983 – 1999” was carried out by Ibrahim and Abubakar (2001). The researchers, not only indexed the journals but also provided analysis of the index entries by volume and year, by form of authorship, by location of contributing authors.

**Methodology**

Documentary sources and the accession register in the departmental library was consulted for the project. In order to obtain accurate data, a page – by – page counting of the project list was made taken into consideration the year of submission, geographical distribution, key titles of the projects, and type of research adopted. Simple descriptive analysis involving frequency tables and percentages was adopted in the presentation of the result of the data analysed.

**Data Analysis and Discussion**

Based on data gathered as at 24th January 2008, the analysis is hereby provided into tables below:

Table 1: Distribution of BLS Projects by Year of Submission.

Year	Frequency	Percentage%
2000	44	12.39
2001	-	-
2002	44	12.39
2003	50	14.08
2004	69	19.44
2005	81	22.82
2006	67	18.87
Total	355	100

From the above table, it was discovered that in 2001 there were no submission of BLS projects to the departmental library. It was discovered that no BLS student graduated in that particular year due to ASUU strike.

The available year records consulted showed that there were 355 BLS projects as at 24th January 2008. The year 2005 received the highest number of projects with 81 (22.82%). This was followed by 2004 with 69 (19.44%) projects. The least were recorded in 2000 and 2002 with 44 (12.39%) BLS projects each.

Table 2: Geo-Political Zone spread of BLS projects.

Geo – political zones/location	Frequency or number of BLS projects	%
North East	196	55.21
North West	30	8.45
North Central	42	11.83
North East and North West	01	0.28
South South	12	3.38
South East	09	2.54
South West	15	4.22
FCT Abuja	13	3.66
Others	37	10.42
Total	355	100

A careful assessment of the titles in relation to the project contents were made in order to identify the study areas in relation to the country's Geo – political zones. The highest number of BLS project write –up were on North East zone with 196 (55.21%) probably owing to the fact that the library school is situated in the North – East. This was followed by 42 (11.83%) BLS projects from North Central zone. Majority of the 42 projects were on Jos town and Plateau state.

There were 37 (10.42%) projects were on Bibliographies on Nigeria, Africa, HIV/AIDS, NNPC, Banks, and African Poetry etc. It was discovered that 1 (0.28%) of the projects was on 2 Geo – political zones (North East and North West).

Table 3: Distribution of BLS projects by Research Method Adopted.

Research methods	Number of BLS projects	%
Experimental	-	-
Survey	92	25.92
Historical	15	4.23
Evaluative	34	9.58
Documentary	38	10.70
Case study	176	49.58
Total	355	100

A majority of the research method adopted was case study with 176 (49.58%) projects; This was followed by survey method with 92 (25.92%) projects.

Evaluative study attracted 34 (9.58%) projects. The least was the Historical research having 15 (4.23%) projects. None of the projects was on experimental study.

**Table 4: Ranked Order of BLS projects by Area of Study (2000 – 2006)**

Rank Order of Project Titles	Titles of BLS projects 2000 – 2006	Number of BLS projects	Percentage (%)
1	Problems, development and prospects of libraries	46	12.96
2	Bibliography	39	10.99
3	Collection development	32	9.01
4.	Library services	29	8.17
5	Management/Administration of library information centres	24	6.76
6	Resources and services	22	6.20
7	Information science	21	5.92
8	Roles of libraries	18	5.07
9	Technical services	16	4.51
10	Information storage and retrieval system	14	3.94
11	Preservation of library material	12	3.38
12	Readers services	12	3.38
13	Library Automation/Automation/information technology	10	2.82
14	Theft and mutilation	09	2.25
15	Book publishing and book trade	08	2.25
16	Reading habits	08	2.25
17	Users' attitude	06	1.69
18	Professionalism	04	1.13
19	Users education	04	1.13
20	Library use pattern	03	0.85
21	Containing education/training	02	0.56
22	Academic achievement and library services	01	0.28
23	Current awareness services (CAS)	01	0.28
24	Library cooperation	01	0.28
25	Library standards	01	0.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>100</b>

The Key words in the project titles were determined in order to get the actual word/words that best explain the area of study. From the table above, 25 areas of study were determined within the 355 BLS projects for the 6 years (2000 – 2006). They were arranged in ranked order i.e from highest to the lowest. From the table, “problems, development and prospects of libraries” seem to be the dominant area of study with 46 (12.96%). This means that the area has been exhaustively studied within the 6 years. Next to this was “Bibliographies” which have been compiled in the areas of HIV/AIDS, NNPC, African poetry, Bank, Nigerian constitution etc. Library services was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with 29 (8.17%) projects which include public library services. The 5<sup>th</sup> in the ranking order was the “Management/Administration of libraries and information centres” with 24 (6.76%) project

titles. This include funding, staffing, budgeting of libraries. The 6<sup>th</sup> in the ranking order were resources and services which include book and non book materials and various library services such as circulation, technical and reference services.

The lowest and the least of the area of study were those of current awareness services, library cooperation, library standards, academic achievement and library service each with 1 (0.28%) project areas of study respectively. The interesting thing in the above table was that the area of study with their corresponding number of project titles appeared in the order of magnitude i.e from highest to lowest.

It has however been discovered from the study that:

1. There was no single BLS project in the year 2001 due to the ASUU strike.
2. The North East zone has the highest number of BLS projects in terms of the study area perhaps because of the location of the library school in the geopolitical zone.
3. Case study was the most frequently used research method while no single BLS project employed experimental method.
4. On the areas of study, "problems, development and prospects of libraries" topped the list with 46 (12.96%) area of study while the remaining 291(77.04%) project were from other areas.

#### **Suggestions**

1. Accurate and up – to – date record of BLS projects submission should be kept especially in computer.
2. Undergraduate students be encouraged to undertake research on national issues rather than only on regional aspects;
3. Students be made to diversify the scope of their researches to enable them employ other research method.

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